

Virginia African American Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 5, 2020
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Virginia African American Advisory Board Members Present

- Gilbert T. Bland, Chair
- Dr. Cheryl Ivey Green, Vice Chair
- Cameron D. Patterson, Secretary
- Larry Boone
- Hope Cupit
- Keren Charles Dongo
- Shirley Ginwright
- Toria Edmonds-Howell
- Gaylene Kanoyton
- Yvonne J. Lewis
- Eduardo Lopez
- Dr. Monica Motley
- Precious Rasheeda Muhammad
- Monica Reid
- Dr. Van Wilson
- Rev. Cozy Bailey

Virginia African American Advisory Board Members Not Present

- Robert Barnette Jr
- Xavier Beale
- Zyahna Bryant
- Dr. Ingrid Grant
- Teri Helenese
- Teri Helenese

Governor's Office Staff

- Tracy Deshazor, Deputy Secretary for the Commonwealth
- Maribel Castaneda, Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth
- Shawn Soares, Outreach Director, Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth
- Kelly Thomasson, Secretary of the Commonwealth
- Brian Ball, Secretary of Commerce & Trade
- Turner Widgen, Special Assistant to the Secretary of Commerce & Trade
- Heidi Hertz, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry
- Suzanne Holland, Special Assistant for Advisory Board Administration
- Chidi Uche, Advisor on Childhood Trauma

Additional Guests:

- Justin Bell, Office of the Attorney General

Welcome, Call to Order, Meeting Overview, New Member Introductions

Gil Bland, Chair of the Virginia African American Advisory Board

Chairman Bland called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. The Chairman reviewed the meeting agenda and indicated that this was the final meeting of the 2020 calendar year. The Chairman gave our two newest Board members the opportunity to reintroduce themselves to the full board. Eduardo Lopez, Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney for Henrico County introduced himself and gave a bit of background. He mentioned his excitement to join the board. Toria Edmonds-Howell introduced herself. She works with Capital One and helps to drive the company's social corporate responsibility mission. She mentioned her excitement as well to be a part of the Virginia African American Advisory Board. She mentioned that prior to Capital One she worked with the City of Richmond and led the Mayor's Youth Academy. She mentioned her passion about the work she does and wants to be a resource to the community. Chairman Bland mentioned that they are joining an important voice for the African American Community. The Chairman mentioned that he looks forward to the contributions that our newest members will provide.

September Meeting Minutes Approval and November Meeting Agenda Adoption

Cameron Patterson, Secretary of the Virginia African American Advisory Board.

Due to members needing some additional time to review the minutes it was decided that we would only adopt the agenda with an adjustment that we would hold the vote for the minutes at the end of the meeting. A motion to approve the agenda with adjustment was made by Dr. Ivey Green and seconded by Yvonne Lewis.

- *Gilbert T. Bland, Chair – Approved*
- *Dr. Cheryl Ivey Green, Vice Chair - Approved*
- *Cameron D. Patterson, Secretary - Approved*
- *Rev. Cozy Bailey, USMC (ret.) – Not Present at Time of Vote*
- *Robert Barnette Jr. – Not Present for Meeting*
- *Xavier L. Beale – Not Present for Meeting*
- *Larry D. Boone - Approved*
- *Zyahna Bryant – Not Present for Meeting*
- *Hope F. Cupit - Approved*
- *Keren Charles Dongo - Approved*
- *Shirley Ginwright - Approved*
- *Dr. Ingrid Granberry Grant – Not Present for Meeting*
- *Teri Helenese – Not Present for Meeting*
- *Toria Edmonds-Howell - Approved*
- *Gaylene Kanoyton - Approved*
- *Yvonne J. Lewis – Approved*
- *Eduardo Lopez, Esq. – Approved*
- *Dr. Monica Motley – Approved*
- *Precious Rasheeda Muhammad - Approved*
- *Monica L. Reid - Approved*
- *Dr. Van C. Wilson – Not Present at the Time of Vote*

Public Comment

Cameron Patterson, Secretary of the Virginia African American Advisory Board

Cameron Patterson, Secretary of the Board shared that we had reached the point of the meeting where guest could offer remarks to the Board. He asked guest even if they had no formal remarks to at least introduce themselves. The following individuals below introduced themselves to the Board.

Ventia Hurt, Truh Love Mobil Notary and Representing MforM minorities for media marijuana

Chrystal Dorsey, Assistant Director Education & Human Services at VCU, Secretary of Urban League of Greater Richmond Young Professionals.

Tiffany Brutus, Student Athlete Services of James Madison University and Black Alumni Chapter

Taryn Anthony, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.

Antoione Hines, Urban League in Hampton Roads, CEO of Veterans Homefront

Karen Downing, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., Eastern Shore

Rashad Pierson, Navy Reserve Financial Analyst,

Kimberly Mac Hammond, Community Member, American Legion Auxiliary, and Chesapeake Delecados.

Danielle Campbell, former Special Assistant for Advisory Board Administration

The Chairman welcome guest and thanked them for their engagement and participation.

Chairman's Report

Gil Bland, Chair of the Virginia African American Advisory Board

Chairman Bland noted that this was his final meeting as Chairman of the Virginia African American Advisory Board. He noted his gratefulness for the sponsorship of the enabling legislation by Chairman Lamont Bagby. He thanked the Secretary of the Commonwealth's office for the recruitment of our current board members. He mentioned that this was one of the great honors of his life to be able to work alongside this board and for the courage and sacrifice that each individual brings to this work. The Chairman noted the report that we were able to submit to the Governor within our first year. He noted that efforts related to this report will have strong consequences for the people of Virginia as we move forward. He thanked Vice Chairman Dr. Cheryl Ivey Green for her work in bringing together our report. He thanked the Chairs of each committee for their contributions to the report as well. The Chairman noted that although COVID has impacted our work, that even in spite of social distancing we have been able thanks to Dr. Motley's work to put together a survey to see input from individuals across the Commonwealth. Chairman Bland thanked the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth for the resources, information, and engagement that they brought to the work of the Board. The Chairman expressed his gratitude to the Governor for the investments that he has made and the culture built to help create the Board and make sure the Board mattered in terms of investment. The Chairman expressed his thankfulness for the future and to Suzanne and Danielle Campbell for their Board appointment.

Board Administrative Update

Suzanne Holland, Special Assistant for Advisory Board Administration

Suzanne mentioned that the Elections procedures document. We will be discussing to adopt that document today for the elections at our first meeting of 2021. Suzanne mentioned that Dr. Underwood will not be able to join us and Deputy Secretary Deshazor will offer the DEI update. Suzanne introduced herself as the Special Assistant for Advisory Board Administration. She reiterated the email address of vaab@governor.virginia.gov as the main email that we need to be utilizing when communicating or seeking information related to the Board. Suzanne reminded our new officers regarding the oath of office paperwork that needs to be submitted as soon as possible. The Board's Facebook page is a great way to communicate information regarding Board news and issues impacting the African American community. Just reach out to Suzanne if you have thoughts to share regarding that effort. Suzanne reviewed the Board's Charge as to advising the governor, submitting our annual report, and undertaking studies, sponsoring symposiums, conducting research, or preparing factual reports. She mentioned that the Board exist to make recommendations to the Governor. It's good to re-center ourselves as we enter our final meeting of the year as we seek understanding about how we can execute our functions. Now that we have provided our report we move into tracking recommendations. We want the recommendations to be a living thing and as we have committee meetings next year we want to think about how we track recommendations. It doesn't have to be a formal process, but as simple as taking note. Moving into 2021 our first meeting of the year will be **February 4, 2021**. Suzanne will send out calendar notifications for all meetings in 2021. Important to get it locked in on the calendar and accept the invitation. Dr. Ivey Green asked if they can identify opportunities for committee meetings about 30 days prior to meeting. Suzanne mentioned that she will have that conversation with the Chair and identify dates.

African American Outreach Update –

Traci J. Deshazor, Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth & Director of African American Outreach

Deputy Secretary Deshazor welcomed board members and guest in attendance. She reiterated that it is her job to make sure that board members stay connected to the administration. She reiterated that the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth has initially been record keepers for the administration. They oversee the constituent services and community engagement operations, they oversee the clemency process for the governor, extradition, and notary services. The first update was regarding Virginia Military Institute. The Governor sent along with other leaders to the President and Board of Visitors three specific items calling for issues of structural racism to be addressed. The second update was regarding the Special Legislative Session. The Governor signed Senate Bill 5030, sponsored by Senator Lock. The Governor signed House Bill 5099, sponsored by Delegate Aird. The Governor signed House Bill 5049, sponsored by Delegate Helmer. The Governor signed House Bill 5109, sponsored by Delegate Hope. The Governor signed House Bill 5108, sponsored by Delegate Guzman. The Governor signed House Bill 5051, sponsored by Delegate Simon. The Governor signed House Bill 5069, sponsored by Delegate Carroll Foy. The Governor signed House Bill 5029, sponsored by Delegate McQuinn. The Governor signed House Bill 5045, sponsored by Delegate Delaney. The Governor signed House Bill 5055, and Senate Bill 5035, sponsored by Leader Herring and Senator Hashmi. The Governor signed Senate Bill 5014, sponsored by Senator Edwards. The Governor signed Senate Bill 5018, sponsored by Senator Bell. The Governor amended House Bill 5149 and Senate Bill 5034, House Bill 5098, House Bill 5072 and Senate Bill 5024, House Bill 5062 and Senate Bill 5033. Deputy Secretary Deshazor provided a update related to the Lee Monument. Judge Marchant ruled favorably in Taylor v. Northam, affirming the Governor's authority to remove the monument. The Deputy Secretary Deshazor highlighted the General Election and the African American's that won election. There is an increased number of individuals serving throughout the Commonwealth. Finally she highlighted Programs and Initiatives. The first is Virginia Heals, linking systems of care for children who have experienced trauma. The second is the Virginia Roadmap to End Hunger. The Virginia Board for People with Disabilities is hosting a panel discussion on Friday, November 13, 2020. Cameron asked Virginia Military Institute and if the work the administration is doing

with them will lead to work with other institutions? Deputy Secretary mentioned the relationship the administration maintains with our higher education institutions. The Governor is focused on making sure that his administration remains a resource to the Virginia Military Institute. These actions do not impact any other institutions at the current moment. Chairman Bland offered some commentary related to the Virginia Military Institute situation. He mentioned that he was pleased with the Governor's swift action regarding the letter. Deputy Secretary Deshazor mentioned that she would reach out to Secretary Qarni to see if there was a mechanism for which we can offer feedback. Keren Dongo mentioned that she wants to ensure that current students at the Virginia Military Institute were protected from retaliation.

The Deputy Secretary provided on behalf of Dr. Underwood some updates related to DEI issues. Dr. Underwood will soon be making an announcement related to new additions to her team. She continues to work on the One Virginia Plan to engage state agencies and the Commonwealth around DEI issues. This work continues although it has taken on a different course during this time. Dr. Underwood will oversee the Office of New Americans. A number of members of the Hispanic, Asian American, and Black Americans working with African Immigrant populations were added to this committee. They wanted to balance the services that those individuals were experienced with. They wanted to make sure that there was strong expertise as they wanted to be as inclusive as possible. Dr. Underwood continues to be a part of the COVID-19 response. Deputy Secretary Deshazor reemphasized our COVID-19 data and resources. The goal is to make sure the dashboard is inclusive and representative of our Commonwealth.

Administration Update

Kelly Thomasson, Secretary of the Commonwealth

Secretary Thomasson offered a update related to the Administration. We are outside of the busy season of appointments, but continuing to work on that. They are working on a challenge to get our Advisory Boards to recommend individuals to become engaged with service to our State Board and Commissions. The goal is to have our boards reflect the great diversity and perspectives across the Commonwealth. Restoration of rights continues to be a focus and the election provided an uptick related to that. There seems to be legislation in the works to continue to make the restoration of rights process fair. The Office continues to work on pardons The Office continues engagement related to outreach and engagement issues. The Secretary thanked Board members for their work related to the census. That process is now complete. We were top ten in the nation for the self-response. The Commission will work on a report to ready ourselves for the 2030 count.

Survey Update

Dr. Monica Motley, Chair of the Survey Committee

Dr. Motley shared an update on behalf of the Survey Committee. As a result of previous meetings the Board felt it important to enter our community to understand and confirm the top areas of interest and focus that need to be confirmed. Survey participants are Virginia Residents with professional experience and/or personal interest in the prioritized issues. Looking for a sample size of 250 and greater. Our timeline has been updated. Dr. Ivey Green and Hope Cupit will draft our participation identification list. We want to pilot the survey with our Advisory Board in December and develop a marketing and promotion strategy. This will occur during December. In January we want to promote, market, and recruit for the survey along with community information calls. And in February we want to launch the survey. Keren Dongo was interested in continuing the Black Table Talk conversations and discussions. Suzanne mentioned how the office can assist. She wants to set up a meeting with the Survey Committee and the Webmaster to schedule a meeting about platform usage. She will likely ask Justin Bell from the Office of Attorney General to join as well. The survey breakdown includes the following sections. Dr. Motley mentioned that she will send out a PDF recapping the survey. She asked that only substantive updates to content be shared. DEI will be baked into each section.

- Section A: Information & Instructions
- Section B: Introduction
- Section C: Small Black Owned Business
- Section D: Education
- Section E: Public Safety and Criminal Justice
- Section F: Health & Environment
- Section G: Demographics

Currently we have 42 questions, takes about 20 minutes to complete, asking that individuals be 18yrs and older. There is only a process for electronic submission. Accessibility and Accommodations being considered for the future. The survey will be offered in multiple languages, ASL & Spanish Interpretation for live promotion of survey, including question to gauge effect of topic on youth and interest to survey in the future. Capture intersectionality via equity and inclusion questions in each section, along with designated section. Chairman Bland recognized and thanked Dr. Motley for her efforts. Dr. Motley recognized her committee.

Administration Update: Commerce & Trade

Brian Ball, Secretary of the Commonwealth

Secretary Ball thanked the group for the opportunity to join. Secretary Ball wanted to chat about programs and initiatives from Commerce and Trade. He mentioned that things have been active with economic development projects. He says they create jobs and capital investment. He mentioned that they have been involved with broadband, rent relief, and tourism. The Secretary spoke about the Rent & Mortgage Relief program. There was 50 million in initial funding. Intent was to support folks impacted by COVID. Originally program required application for relief. In September landlords were able to apply for relief on behalf of tenants. This has helped to create greater demand. Through October 21st dispersed over 18 million in rent and relief to over 73,000 households. Most of the applications are for rent, fewer number for mortgage relief. Of households receiving payments many have are homes with children. Folks aren't required to self-describe themselves. But of those reported over half are black households, about 30 percent are white households. Rebuild Virginia continues to expand and evolve. Eligibility has been expanded for less than 250 and 10 million in revenues. Grant amount has been increased as well. Expansions are result of not receiving as many applications as requested. The goal is to allocate cares act money prior to the year end and get it out the door. The Secretary wanted to give a shoutout to the Small Business and Supplier Diversity team. Took an incredible amount of work to roll out the program. Tracey Wiley and her team has put in incredible work related to this effort. Gaylene Kanoyton asked about how the Rebuild program was being marked. Turner Widgen mentioned that a planned marketing effort had been established. Gaylene also asked for a breakdown via region. Deputy Secretary Deshazor mentioned how we can reach individuals that are not affiliated with some of the big organizations like the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. Gaylene mentioned that it will be critical to reach those not in the gap. Chairman Bland asked that we continue to seek ways to expand the program. The Secretary thanked individuals for the opportunity to share. Keren Dongo did ask if there is a portal where we can help those that don't complete their application. We want to know where we can be helpful to disseminate information.

Administration Update: Health & Human Resources

Daniel Carey, Secretary of Health & Human Resources

Dr. Carey provided a thanks to the Board for the opportunity to share. The Secretary thanked the Board for the recommendations offered in the report. He has had the opportunity to read and looks forward to further review. Dr. Carey mentioned that leadership makes a difference. The Governor has given consistent messages around behaviors. Dr. Carey emphasized the importance of listening to those on the front lines. He also mentioned listening to the community and our Health Equity Group to see who we need to be partnering with. Dr. Carey

mentioned that the vaccine process is moving forward and there has been great federal investment. He mentioned that we have not done that with personal protective equipment, ect. He mentioned a more national unified approach is important. The Secretary mentioned that the social determinants of health, food, housing, transportation make a huge difference when we are confronted with a pandemic. If there is inequality then we need to address that and we know that it exist across the Commonwealth and the Country. We don't want to medicalize poverty, we want to address it systemically. The Secretary mentioned investment of 66 million in childcare and childcare providers. The administration continues to support working families. The administration is supporting cost for childcare providers related to pandemic cost. Home Health caregivers were supported with a onetime payment for services that were rendered during the pandemic. The Secretary mentioned that we continue to prepare for a vaccine. We will need help building confidence in our vaccine. We want to use all the communication channels available to help build confidence. The Secretary gave a update on Step Virginia. The budget had impacted and they hope that at some point they will be able to reinvest resources that were loss as result of the budget cuts that had to be made. The Secretary mentioned maternal health. The Working Group on Dula Services continues its work with great representation. The findings from this group will be reported to the General Assembly by December 1st. The Secretary encourages individuals to be mindful about keeping distance even as different households come together. Hope Cupit asked about childcare and child support being linked to service for low income families. She asked if there could be an adjustment to that practice. Hope mentioned that in Head Start Centers mothers are coming in for childcare and whoever is absence mother has to support them so that they can go to Daycare. They can participate, but parents pull it out to avoid it being done to the other parent. People don't want to disclose.

Virginia Heals Program

Chidi Uche, Advisor on Childhood Trauma

Chidi Uche shared on behalf of the Virginia Heals Program. This is a model of service delivery to link services for children, youth, and families as it relates to trauma. The goals of the project are to screen children for trauma and/or victimization, provide comprehensive and coordinated services to fully address their needs, and promote and create policies and practices that are established to sustain this approach long-term. Resources that have been developed include a trauma-informed agency self-assessment, family engagement guide for partnering with families to improve service outcomes, mapping community resources facilitation guide, screening for experiences and strengths tool, formally known as the Virginia Victimization Guide, and e-learning courses have been developed. They are working soon to roll out the initiative statewide.

Roadmap to End Hunger

Heidi Hertz, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry

Heidi Hertz shared on behalf of the Roadmap to End Hunger initiative. This is the first of its kind initiative setting goals and strategies to prioritize food security across sectors, Secretariats, agencies, and programs. Goals include engagement of community members, increasing participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. The roadmap involves many individuals across Government. Spreading the word is important. There are some assets to promote the Roadmap to End Hunger and opportunity to sign up as a Hunger Action Coalition. That allows you to plug in to connect with folks that are doing the work. Food Access Investment Fund Coordinator is being hired to help with issues related to food deserts.

Committee Reports

Monica Reid shared on behalf of the Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee. The themes related to this include Police Accountability and Transparency, Gun Violence and Public Health, Pre-Trial Justice, COVID-19 as it relates to incarcerated individuals. Gaylene Kanoyton highlighted the Health & Environment Committee. They are promoting restoring funding for medicare expansion, increased support for Step Program, Racism as a public health crisis, and mental health. Keren provided update on Small Black Owned Business. She was concerned about making sure that black owned businesses are supported during this pandemic. She wants to make sure we are focused on making sure that we track whether black owned businesses apply and go from start to finish. Not enough that they know, but we must get them to apply.

Vote on September 3, 2020 Minutes

Dr. Ivey Green mentioned that she would share with the Secretary her corrections for the September 3 minutes. Yvonne Lewis asked that she be reflected as present in the September 3 minutes. A motion was offered by Gaylene Kanoyton and seconded by Rev. Cozy Baily to approve the minutes with the changes offered.

- Gilbert T. Bland, Chair – Approved
- Dr. Cheryl Ivey Green, Vice Chair – Approved
- Cameron D. Patterson, Secretary- Approve
- Rev. Cozy Bailey, USMC (ret.) – Approved
- Robert Barnette Jr. – Not Present
- Xavier L. Beale – Not Present
- Larry D. Boone – Not Present
- Zyahna Bryant – Not Present
- Hope F. Cupit – Approved
- Keren Charles Dongo – approved
- Shirley Ginwright – approved
- Dr. Ingrid Granberry Grant – Not Present
- Teri Helenese – Not Present
- Toria Edmonds-Howell – Approved
- Gaylene Kanoyton – Approved
- Yvonne J. Lewis – Approved
- Eduardo Lopez, Esq. – Approved
- Dr. Monica Motley – Approved
- Precious Rasheeda Muhammad – Approved
- Monica L. Reid - Approved
- Dr. Van C. Wilson – Approved

Vote on Final Report

Dr. Ivey Green motioned for approval with a second from Yvonne Lewis.

- Gilbert T. Bland, Chair – Approved
- Dr. Cheryl Ivey Green, Vice Chair – Approved
- Cameron D. Patterson, Secretary- Approve
- Rev. Cozy Bailey, USMC (ret.) – Approved
- Robert Barnette Jr. – Not Present
- Xavier L. Beale – Not Present
- Larry D. Boone – Not Present
- Zyahna Bryant – Not Present
- Hope F. Cupit – Approved

- Keren Charles Dongo – approved
- Shirley Ginwright – approved
- Dr. Ingrid Granberry Grant – Not Present
- Teri Helenese – Not Present
- Toria Edmonds-Howell – Approved
- Gaylene Kanoyton – Approved
- Yvonne J. Lewis – Approved
- Eduardo Lopez, Esq. – Approved
- Dr. Monica Motley – Approved
- Precious Rasheeda Muhammad – Approved
- Monica L. Reid - Approved
- Dr. Van C. Wilson – Approved

Adoption of Elections Procedures

Suzanne Holland explained the Elections Procedures Document with a few comments from Justin Bell and Chairman Bland. The elections document creates a uniformed process. Chairman Bland mentioned that he would like to establish a Governance Committee and asked those interested to email him. Gaylene Kanoyton motioned to approve the Elections Procedures with a second from Shirley Ginwright.

- Gilbert T. Bland, Chair – Approved
- Dr. Cheryl Ivey Green, Vice Chair – Approved
- Cameron D. Patterson, Secretary- Approve
- Rev. Cozy Bailey, USMC (ret.) – Approved
- Robert Barnette Jr. – Not Present
- Xavier L. Beale – Not Present
- Larry D. Boone – Not Present
- Zyahna Bryant – Not Present
- Hope F. Cupit – Approved
- Keren Charles Dongo – approved
- Shirley Ginwright – approved
- Dr. Ingrid Granberry Grant – Not Present
- Teri Helenese – Not Present
- Toria Edmonds-Howell – Approved
- Gaylene Kanoyton – Approved
- Yvonne J. Lewis – Approved
- Eduardo Lopez, Esq. – Approved
- Dr. Monica Motley – Approved
- Precious Rasheeda Muhammad – Approved
- Monica L. Reid - Approved
- Dr. Van C. Wilson – Approved

Closing Remarks and Announcements

Chairman Bland thanked everyone for a great year and asked that the meeting be adjourned.